

pass their government takeover without a single up-or-down vote.

As a mom, I would never allow my kids to deem their rooms clean; so it is disgraceful that the majority plans to deem their \$2.5 trillion government takeover of health care as passed without a vote as provided for in the Constitution.

I urge my colleagues to do the truly courageous thing and demand a clean vote.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the time is always right to do what is right, and that time is now. The spirit of history is upon us. We must pass health care.

There are those who have told us to wait. They have told us to be patient. We cannot wait. We cannot be patient. The American people need health care, and they need it now.

Will we stand with the American people or will we stand with the big insurance companies? We have a moral obligation to make health care a right and not a privilege.

We cannot wait a moment longer. We must pass health care, and we must pass it now.

□ 1230

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, today, The Washington Post bore a headline that should be of grave concern to all Americans: "House may try to pass Senate health care bill without voting on it." The Post article said, "After laying the groundwork for a decisive vote this week on the Senate's health care bill, House Speaker NANCY PELOSI suggested Monday that she might attempt to pass the measure without having Members vote on it."

Despite deep reservations of a majority of Americans, congressional leaders plan to ram through their 2,700-page, nearly \$1 trillion proposal, by using a parliamentary maneuver that is both politically treacherous and likely unconstitutional. Article I, section 7 of the Constitution clearly states that a bill must pass both the House and Senate to become law.

I call on leaders of Congress to adhere to our Constitution's requirement of democratic accountability and allow a straight up-or-down vote on the majority party's health care proposal that is opposed by the American people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, the great philosopher George Santayana said, Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Now the Republicans say we should scrap the bill and start all over again. In 1994, Newt Gingrich very proudly killed Mrs. Clinton's health care effort. We have waited 16 years. Twelve years we had Republicans in control of this House. We had 6 years with the Republican Senate, a Republican House, and a Republican President—and nothing was offered.

What you're saying today is, Let's kill the Democratic bill, and we'll wait another 16 years to 2026 until we try again. The Americans are going into bankruptcy—two-thirds of them because of health care. We cannot wait any longer. The time has come for a vote, folks. Let's stand up and tell the American people you want to wait until 2026 to try again. That doesn't make sense.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, the health care debate has roused the American public like few other issues ever have. For months, the American people have stood up and said they don't want the government in charge of health care and they don't want the bill that's currently moving through Congress. Now I've received thousands of emails and phone calls and letters from my constituents, and the vast majority of them are opposed to this bill. But how long will it take for Washington to listen to the American public?

Congress should heed the will of the American people and start over on bipartisan reform that will lower health care costs for everyone. But instead, the Speaker and the House leadership are now suggesting they may pass this controversial bill without Members even actually having to vote on it. Using a legislative sleight-of-hand to pass an unpopular bill represents an arrogance in Washington that Americans find so frustrating about politics and business as usual in Congress.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the American people are fed up with the most costly health care system in the world with too little good health to show for it. We are 38th of 195 countries in life expectancy. Pity those who think they can run on the theme: "Repeal health care reform." Democrats opposed Bush's version of prescription drugs for seniors because, unlike our

health care bill that's coming to the floor, the Bush plan added billions to the deficit, didn't pay for the bill, and cut seniors off with the doughnut hole. But we never ran on the outrageous theme "repeal prescription drugs for seniors." Instead, we vowed to fix the prescription drug law if Americans would give us control of the Congress. They did—and we are. We are closing the doughnut hole, and we are paying for it. You're entitled to criticize, indeed to change the health care reform Americans have been waiting for for almost a hundred years. But it is simply a fool's errand to oppose it, and madness to try to repeal it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, from The Cincinnati Enquirer to The Washington Post, the editorials today tell the Democrats to stop this health care reform and start again. I agree because I've always based my work on health care on increasing access. This bill fails at increasing overall access. The Senate bill expands Medicaid to cover families earning up to 133 percent of poverty level. The Medicaid rolls will explode under this proposal. But what does that mean? Some 40 percent of family practice physicians currently do not accept Medicaid patients. This is expected to increase to 60 percent. Some 60 percent of specialists currently do not accept Medicaid patients. This is expected to skyrocket to 80 percent.

This bill expands Medicaid beyond its capacity to absorb patients, it cuts Medicare for seniors, and leaves malpractice tort reform untouched and skyrocketing costs in place. This bill has the potential to bankrupt rural hospitals that have a disproportionate share of the problems inherent in the bill. This adds up to less access and lower quality. That is not reform.

REAFFIRM BONDS WITH ISRAEL

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, the United States and Israel have long shared an important friendship. That friendship is rooted in close moral and strategic bonds built on common values, common interests, and common concerns. Today, that friendship is being tested, but we must not allow ourselves to be distracted from the concerns and goals that bring us together. The threat of a nuclear Iran is too great and the peace process is too important for us to spend more time engaging in critical rhetoric of our most important ally. It is time to put aside the rhetoric and reaffirm our bonds with Israel.

We must make it clear that we are united in our opposition to a nuclear